

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY STR:JSTARKEY:395-6166 1/16/76

APPROVED BY STR:AMBASSADOR FREDERICK B. DENT

STATE:WBARRARLOUGH

AGRICULTURE:RFITZSIMMONS

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O 162320Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR

SUBJECT:CITRUS WAX PROBLEM

REF: A) TOKYO 682; B) TOKYO 644; C) STATE 11105

1. AMBASSADOR DENT MET WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR
YASUKAWA THIS MORNING TO CONVEY USG CONCERN REGARDING MARCH
1 IMPLEMENTATION OF MHW REGULATION WHICH WOULD EFFECTIVELY
BAN IMPORTATION OF WAX COATED CITRUS. HE INDICATED THAT WE
HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF PROBLEM UNTIL THE INDUSTRY BROUGHT IT
TO OUR ATTENTION JANUARY 13. JAPANESE IMPORTERS HAD
CANCELLED SHIPMENTS AND THE ENTIRE U.S. CITRUS INDUSTRY
WAS INCENSED. HE ADDED THAT THE WAX ISSUE COMING ON THE
HEELS OF THE FUNGICIDE PROBLEM WAS VIEWED BY THE INDUSTRY
AS A CLEAR INDICATION THAT THESE MEASURES WERE DESIGNED TO
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RESTRICT TRADE AND THEY WERE CONSIDERING RETALIATORY

MEASURES AGAINST JAPANESE TRADE.

2. HE POINTED OUT THAT UNLESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS REGULATION COULD BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY TO PERMIT CONSULTATIONS LOOKING TOWARD A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WE WOULD HAVE A MAJOR TRADE ISSUE ON OUR HANDS. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO DEFUSE THE ISSUE.

3. AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA REPLIED THAT THE FIRST INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY CAME FROM STR CALL. THE SITUATION WAS STILL NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR BUT APPARENTLY MHW HAD INFORMED THE INDUSTRY ON DECEMBER 1 THAT THE REGULATIONS

WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT USE OF WAXES CONTAINING SUBSTANCES NOT ON MHW APPROVED LIST APPLY TO ALL IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS AND THEREFORE AFFECT CITRUS. THE TIMING OF THIS MOVE WAS BAD AND HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE INDUSTRY'S REACTION. HE SHARED OUR CONCERN OVER THE IMPACT OF THIS ACTION ON U.S. JAPANESE TRADE RELATIONS AND AGREED TO SEND AN URGENT CABLE TO TOKYO CONVEYING THIS CONCERN AND USG REQUEST THAT THE GOJ DEFER IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS MEASURE PENDING CONSULTATIONS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

4. WE APPRECIATE PROMPT EMBASSY RESPONSE TO REF C AND YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GOJ AGREEMENT TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE MEASURES. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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